

God's handiwork seen in home missionary

By Bob Carey SBC Brotherhood Commission

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BOSTON — When Ignatius Meimaris accepted Christ in 1968, he never dreamed he'd be a Southern Baptist missionary in Boston. God's plan for his life would lead him there to do cross-cultural language ministry and find his future wife.

Almost 30 years later, Meimaris now finds himself serving as the director of missions for the Greater Boston Baptist Association and married to Nena, a public schoolteacher, for 19 years.

The Meimarises are two of the home missionaries spotlighted during the March 2-9 Season of Prayer for Home Missions, held in connection with the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

As a member of the Greek Evangelical Church who was looking for ways to minister, Meimaris met Southern Baptists for the first time in 1978.

"I had an idea that God would use me working in different language groups cross-culturally," Meimaris said. "It wasn't long after that I began working as a language catalytic missionary in the Greater Boston Baptist Association."

His success in Boston opened up a new door - serving the Baptist Convention of New England as language coordinator and Brotherhood director. He held these titles from 1988 until 1993 when he assumed his current position with the Boston association.

With the return to Boston, he faced many of the same problems but also some new. According to Meimaris, most of those problems come from the same source ack of trained leadership.

"Our concept of leadership is beyond the programmatic concept," he said. "It covers all areas of leadership. We want mentors to train others to be potential leaders and how to be effective administrators. We need people who can help take the load off of the pastor in churches where he wears so many-hats."

Taking responsibility and sharing the load is perhaps the greatest need for the churches of Boston.

Only three of the 71 churches and missions in the Boston association have fulltime youth directors. Youth work is a great need and yet without leadership, another generation in Boston may be lost.

"We are having new people come into our churches, yet so many of these people are second-generation families who have been unchurched. They don't have a background of working in a church setting," he said.

Meimaris believes there is a solution to this dilemma.

If he could recruit volunteers who were willing to spend from one week to several months in Boston, they could begin to make a difference in the effectiveness of the churches on the neighborhoods.

"If a volunteer comes and stays for a couple of weeks or months helping build a



MAR 0 4 1997

LISTENING EAR — Meimaris talks with a member of the First Baptist Church of Chelsea, Mass. after a recent service at the church. (HMB photo by Don Rutledge)

leadership base, they will leave behind a ministry. The people who were developed here in Boston still have a mentor to rely upon in another part of the country. The volunteers help create a homegrown leadership," Meimaris said.

Meimaris' dream is that churches will be willing to help the Greater Boston Baptist Association with short-term and long-term volunteers.

"It takes a long time to develop leaders, but every bit counts. The volunteers need to be willing to learn. They can learn a tremendous amount about people and Boston while volunteering, yet they can give so much of Christ's love at the same time," he concluded.





REACHING ACROSS CULTURES — Ignatius Meimaris, (right), director of missions for the Greater Boston Baptist Association, talks with Hatian pastor Gaspard Matheus of Fort Myers, Fla. Matheus mentors other Haitian pastors in Fort Myers, and comes to Boston four times a year to assist Haitian congregations meeting in the area. (HMB photo by Don Rutledge)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

WMU sets annual meet

Brantley melts hearts

Students celebrate TLW

Home missions prayers

Missions message going home

The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary is joining the home shopping craze to market a variety of native handcrafts from countries such as Pakistan, Thailand, Jordan, Mexico, and Tanzania.

The WorldCrafts marketing approach has been piloted with 12 to 15 home parties, resulting in satisfactory consumer response, according to coordinator Joyce Mitchell, WMU associate executive director. While creating a unique missions learning experience, the new marketing approach has provided a sales outlet for the indigenous crafter who lacks adequate income possibilities, Mitchell reported, noting WMU is working with the crafters — all of whom are women — through Southern Baptist personnel in various countries.

"Access to a formal distribution structure for crafters is often limited. With the establishment of the WorldCrafts marketing and distribution network, WMU is pleased to participate in the economic and spiritual development of crafters throughout the world and to provide a tangible reminder for missions awareness for the purchaser," Mitchell said.

Looking back

1.06

At least one Baptist dies and more than 25 are injuried when a tornado sweeps through rural Jones County Saturday morning, according to Maurice Flowers, director of missions for Jones association. At least three Baptist churches in the area are damaged.

The Joy Singers of Agricola Church, Agricola, return from a tour in which they presented "ZACK, JR.," a folk musical by Jack Coleman. Mrs. Rawleen Chisholm is their accompanist. Ronnie R. Cottingham is minister of music and W. Bryce Evans is pastor.

50 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Training Union Department has for distribution an abundant supply of the leaflet, "Crusade to Enlist 2,000,000 Daily Bible Readers," which gives the Bible readings for the first quarter of 1947.

EDITOR'S *<u>NOTEBOOK</u>*





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Life is worth defending at all stages

Mississippians have experienced a most difficult week.

In addition to the murders that occur with such frequency and predictability that hardly anyone notices (except the victims' loved ones), the state suffered a pair of unusually tragic incidents that gripped everyone's attention and caused a great deal of uneasiness.

The first incident occurred when a man ing treated at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Jackson calmly

walked into the hospital with a shotgun and killed one of his doctors

before taking his own life.
Friends of the gunman told reporters there was never a hint of violence in all the years they knew the Vietnam War veteran. His motive will likely remain a mystery.

The doctor, praised by his col-leagues as a deeply sensitive and involved healer, left a wife and two young children.

The second highly-charged tragedy of the week was the senseless slaughter of two Jefferson Davis County deputy sheriffs, allegedly by an inmate they were transporting to a state correctional facility where he was to begin serving multiple sentences for convic-

tions involving manslaughter and aggravated assault.

Once again, spouses and young children are left without husbands and fathers.

No one yet knows how the accused murderer — now allegedly responsible for three deaths - managed to acquire the handgun, or why he thought he could get away with shooting two law enforcement officers in the head while traveling down a south Mississippi highway.

That last question will likely remain a

mystery, too.

Farther away from home but equally unsettling were the death and multiple woundings of innocent tourists on the observation floor of the Empire State Building in New York City. The motive of that mad gunman, who subsequently committed suicide, cannot be fathomed, either.

Rational people desperately search for reason when one human intentionally destroys himself or takes the lives of other

How could such a thing happen? What was the killer thinking, and how could his thinking be so different from mine? Was his thinking really any different than mine? Will I ever feel secure again?

Learned men and women offer many explanations for such tragedies: socioeconomic factors, family meltdown, violent entertainment media, lead paint, and at least a thousand other ideas.

I believe it is because we live in a culture

For example, when we corporately lose respect for life at the beginning and end of an individual's existence — specifically, abortion and euthanasia — how can we expect the troubled and confused among us to respect life in the "middle" of an individual's existence?

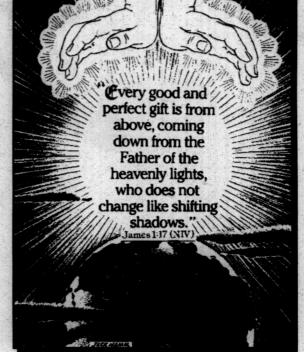
If society accepts the concept of human life as relative to the situation in which one finds oneself, then doing away with a baby or an elderly person for personal convenience is really no different than doing away with a teenager because the killer wants the kid's fancy athletic shoes.

Don't be shocked. Whenever we devalue what should be most precious to us, the result is predictable.

When we devalue women, the result is misogyny. When we devalue our little ones, the result is child abuse and sexual predation.

When we devalue those who are not like us, the result is racism. When we devalue marital fidelity, the result is disease and wrecked families.

It follows then that when we devalue life at any stage, we devalue life at all stages. Hence the culture of death in which we presently find ourselves.



For the Christian, there is another way. The Bible is filled with references to the value God places on each of us.

We are so important that God himself breathed life into us (Gen. 2:7, Gen. 2:22). Our Savior made repeated references to

the importance of all life during his earthly ministry (Matt. 6:25, Luke 12:15, John 10:10). Many of his references dealt with eternal life, but the connection to earthly life cannot be missed.

Life at all stages is indeed precious. It is also fragile, and in many ways we have taken for ourselves the decision of life or death for another person that should be reserved only for God.

That's hot right, and Christians must continue to stand up for the sanctity of life

at all stages.
Jesus Christ urged on his followers to be salt and light in a rancid and dark world (Matt. 3:13-16).

Defending life is one of the most important ways Christians can honor his plea.

According to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB), the number of unsaved people in our nation makes the U.S. the fourthlargest unsaved country in the world — behind only China,

India, and Indonesia. We live in a country where many need to know our Lord.

As Southern Baptists, our avenue for touching America is HMB, and almost one-half of the HMB operating budget is dependent on the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

In 1895, HMB was in debt and its secretary, Issac Taylor Tichenor, considered "calling in" the missionaries.

He asked Annie Armstrong, the first corresponding secre-Woman's of the Missionary Union (WMU), if the ladies could raise \$5,000

above their usual gifts.

The offering, which was then called the Week of Self-Denial for Home Missions, exceeded Tichenor's request.

Throughout the years the name of this offering has undergone many changes, but in 1934 the offering was named in honor of Annie Armstrong by WMU.

GUEST OPINION:



"Go forward" with Annie

By Sandra Nash, President, Mississippi WMU

With respect to Annie Armstrong, Catherine Allen wrote, "No single person with the possible exception of Issac Taylor Tichenor, corresponding secretary of HMB, ever did as much for the Baptist home mission cause."

Annie Armstrong died several months after WMU celebrated its 50th anniversary. From

her bedside, she sent a message: After study of God's Word comes study of the fields, then peo-

ple pray, then they give.

The opportunity is ours to persist in studying, praying, and giving to missions.

Though Mississippi is finan-

cially one of the poorer states in the nation, we continue to be among the top ten states in

Southern Baptist mission giving. Our people are generous in sharing what God has provided. In 1996, Mississippi Baptist contributions amounted to over

\$2.5 million for the Annie Armstrong Offering — seventh-highest in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Later this year, HMB will become part of the new structure named North American

ture named North American Mission Board.

As this occurs, there must be diligent support for all areas of home missions.

Great countries of the world have historically fallen due to deterioration from within, not from outside aggression.

If we are to avoid the same fate, people in our country need to know the Lord.

All of us have the responsibility of sharing his love with those we meet.

Mississippians also have the privilege of supporting our missionaries with prayers and finances.

Annie Armstrong's marching orders were, "Go forward." We must seize this opportunity to "go forward" in our praying and giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Start Somethin CHURCH STARTING

Season of Prayer for Home Missions MARCH 2-9

WMU annual meeting slated for First, Clinton

The Mississippi-born president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) will be the keynote speaker at the 1997 annual meeting of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) March 17-18 at First Church, Clinton.

Clinton native Jerry Rankin and his wife Bobbye — also a Mississippian — will attend the meeting to represent the foreign missions work of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Rankins are graduates of Mississippi College, where both were selected for the school's Hall of Fame.

Dellanna O'Brien Birmingham, national WMU executive director, and Wanda Lee of Columbus, Ga., national WMU president, will also participate in each of the three sessions.

Minette Drumwright, for-mer prayer coordinator for the Southern Baptist FMB in Richmond, Va., will deliver devotional thoughts for the sessions.

Other speakers include: Ken Weathersby, director of African-American work for the Tenn. Baptist Convention.

♦ Mississippian Betty Hart, retired Southern Baptist missionary to Chile.

♦ Betty Jo Lewis, wife for Southern Baptist Home Mission Board former presi-

dent Larry Lewis.

◆ Linda Dossett, member of First Church, Jackson, and a WMU leader there.

Musicians slated to perform at the meeting include Sherri Hardin of Picayune; Regina Jones of Greenville; and Margaret McKenzie of Madison.

The first session on March 17 will begin at 1:15 p.m. and end at 3:45 p.m. The second session on March 17 will begin at 6:45 p.m. and end at 8:55 p.m.

The March 18 session will begin at 9:15 a.m. and end at 12:15 p.m.

Rankin

There is no admission charge. Childcare is not provided.

Because of limited parking and workday traffic congestion around First

Church, Clinton, shuttle service will be provided prior to each session from the parking lot of nearby Morrison Heights Church on Morrison Drive.

A special highlight of the meeting this year will be the March 17 site dedication for a new adult lodge planned for Camp Garaywa, the Mississippi Baptist Girls in Action campground, across Interstate 55

from annual meeting location. The multimillion dollar

facility at Camp Garaywa will allow O'Brien adult meetings to be held throughout the year at the cen-

trally-located campground. The site dedication service

will begin at 11 a.m., followed by tours of the camp and a luncheon. Reservations are required for the luncheon, which will cost \$5 per person.
Shuttle service for the site

dedication will be provided from Morrison Heights Church



Chuch, Clinton. Shuttles will depart Morrison Heights Church each half-hour 9:30from 10:30 a.m.

Shuttles will depart First Church at 10 a.m. and 10:30.

The shuttles will return at about 1 p.m for the afternoon session of the WMU meeting. For more information and to

make reservations for the Garaywa luncheon, contact Mississippi WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE



Short SBC meeting, budget to get study

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The possibility of a two-day Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting, instead of three days, will be studied by a new

The SBC Executive Committee voted Feb. 18 to name an "SBC annual meeting study committee" at its September meet-

Additionally, the Executive Committee requested the Committee on Order of Business to "observe the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas for the purpose of evaluating ways to improve convention sessions and submit to the president of the Executive Committee a list of suggestions ...

Executive Committee chairman Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark., received unanimous approval for his motion to appoint a committee for a comprehensive study of the SBC budget process

The committee will issue its report at the Sept. meeting of the Executive Committee.

In another matter concerning the SBC annual meeting, the Executive Committee acted to "receive as information" SBC President Tom Elliff's selection of Barry McCarty, SBC chief parliamentarian from 1986-94, as chief parliamentarian for this June's meeting.

One Executive Committee member, Michigan pastor Blaine Barber, asked whether there had been "a problem" with . Board, he soc s miniediate president, Jim Henry, to turn to another chief parliamentarian the past two years, Lester L. Cooper Jr., a Southern Baptist pastor from Riverdale, Ga.

Barber also asked whether a Southern Baptist could have been chosen over McCarty, who is not a Southern Baptist. McCarty is pastor of Lakota Christian Church in Cincinnati and an adjunct pro-

fessor at Northern Kentucky University.

Elliff was not present at the meeting to respond, and Morris H. Chapman, Executive Committee president and chief

executive officer, was given the podium to answer Barber's questions. SBC bylaws, Chapman noted, place the

responsibility of choosing a chief parlia-

mentarian with the SBC president.

Chapman also stated, "It's my understanding that (Cooper) has been asked to serve as a parliamentarian again this year by the president."

Terms of the contract with McCarty were disclosed to Executive Committee members: \$8,000 plus expenses, compared to fees previously paid McCarty ranging \$10,000 to from

\$16,700. Among other actions taken up by Executive Committee:

◆ A request from Southern Seminary was approved to publish a new quarpublication, Southern "The Baptist Journal of

Theology."

• Representation of the Hawaii Baptist Convention, which has surpassed 20,000 members. was approved for the International Mission North Mission American Board, and Baptist Sunday School Board.

♦ A progress report from the Christian Life Commission (CLC) was received as information concerning a motion referred from the 1996 annual meeting proposing CLC-coordinated

proxy voting of SBC agencies' investments "so that Southern Baptists' moral views

can positively impact corporate America." CLC President Richard Land reported in a Dec. 31 memorandum it is "feasible and doable," and the Executive Committee thus voted to ask the CLC to complete its feasibility study, including the "scope of potential impact on corporate policy," and present a report at the June 16 Executive Committee meeting prior to the SBC annual sessions in Dallas.

Compiled from Baptist Press articles.

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Summer missionaries reach record

By Carl M. White sociate Editor

were approved by the Baptist Student Union (BSU) student summer 1947 A record number of 111 students missions screening committee to be home and foreign summer mis-sionaries for 1997— the 0-year anniversary of BSU summer mis-tions, reported Weaver McCracken, associa

director of the Student Work Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

In 1947 the Mississippi BSU appointed its first summer missionary, McCracken said.

Miccracken pointed out. All their expenses are paid, but they are not paid."

Students raise the support for the BSU summer mission program each year. This year they are seek-first summer missionary, McCracken said. orrine Griffin, a student at Blue Mountain College, was sent to Hawaii as part of a multi-state mission team.

The 111 students appointed in 1997 will serve in 26 different states and in seven foreign coun-tries. BSU summer missionaries serve eight to

ten week assignments.

"I fully expect most of these (111 students) to accept assignments and to serve," he added. In 1995, 97 students were approved for summer mission with 93 actually accepting assignments.

All requests for student summer missionaries

and Foreign Mission Boards, McCracken said. "Most (students) are going to new work areas," he added.

A total of 134 application for summer missions were

received, with 120 of the licants interviewed essions at Camp va on February 18-

ing to raise \$110,000. The runds provide transportation to and from the mission field and a small amount of money for incidental expenses. The local setting provides living expenses for the student while they are on the field, McCacken pointed our Orientation for summer missionaries is April 3-4, with a commissioning service on April 5 a Gulfshores Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian. For more information on ISU summer missions contact your local BSI or the Student Work Department at the Mississippi Baptis Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, M. 2005, 650. Telephone: (601)5 6-3800 or told free

Angry hearts melted by Brantley Center

By Carl M. White Associate Editor

Terry (not his real name) was a homeless alcoholic.

After losing his wife, uncle, all between and home Christmas and New Years Day of one year - Terry turned to alcohol and drugs to solve his problems and soothe his hurt.

He was very angry, especially

He eventually found his way to the Brantley Baptist Center, a homeless shelter and alcohol and drug treatment center on

Magazine Street in New Orleans.
"God is nothing but dog spelled backwards, and that is how I feel," were the first words he said to Mississippian Kay Bennett, social services coordinator at Brantley.

Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) One day Brantley called the seminary looking for someone

to fill a part time position. Bennett answered. That was in 1988, and she's been at Brantley ever since.

"God invited me to do this," Bennett said. "I guess you could say I found a home with the homeless."

Brantley manages a homeless shelter that houses up to 250 people per night.

Bennett said 35% of the homeless to whom they minister are mental ill; 48% are substance abusers; and 30% are military veterans.

Each person is provided a meal, shower, bed, clothes if needed, and breakfast.

Also, chapel services are held nine times each week. Brantley also has a four-month

alcohol and drug treatment program with beds for 39 patients. "In the four-month program we provide room, board, laun-

dry, clothes, group therapy, individual therapy, and testing — all for free," Bennett said. The Brantley ministry is pro-

vided through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

Similar services in a private hospital would cost upward of \$1,000 a day, Bennett said.

Bennett leads a self-assess-ment program called W.I.N.G.S., which stands for "Wisely Initiate New Goals and Skills. In addition, she oversees the

women's unit of the homeless shelter, does literacy training, GED preparation, individual and group therapy, referrals, "and whatever else that needs to be done," she said.

Brantley is in its 70th year of operation, beginning February 11, 1927

It has a full-time ministerial staff of four, along with three interns from NOBTS and three other employees who are grad-uates of the alcohol and drug

It is the only ministry center in the Southern Baptist Convention fully owned and operated by the Home Mission Board (HMB).

Other centers are cooperative efforts of HMB, state conventions and/or local associations.

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Start Something New

Season of Prayer

for

Home Missions

MARCH 2-9

HEARTWARMING GIFT —Inspecting one of 20 quilts made last summer for Brantley Center in New Orleans by Girls in Action at Camp Garaywa in Clinton are (from left) Sandra Nash, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) president; Marjean Patterson, Mississippi WMU executive director; Kay Bennett, social services coordinator at Brantley; and Ginger Smith, Brantley case worker. The quilts will be used by residents of Brantley's alcohol and drug treatment program. (Photo by Carl M. White)

> "Only God can melt a cold, angry heart like that," Bennett

Helping God melt cold and angry hearts is the ministry of Bennett and the Brantley Center.

Bennett is a native of Kokomo. She grew up in Magees Creek Church in Walthall Association.

While in college, Bennett did an internship at a state mental hospital, but she found something was missing in her work.

"I was able to help meet their mental and emotional needs, but not their spiritual needs," she said.

After graduating from the University of Southern Missisogy, Bennett began studies in the counseling program at New

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Terry was enrolled in the center's four-month treatment program.

The staff worked to meet Terry's basic needs, while the Holy Spirit began to meet his heart, Bennett said.

"He came back to me one day saying there might be something to God. He wanted me to tell him more.

"By meeting his needs, the door was opened to witness to him," she said.

Terry accepted Christ, and now serves as a Brantley volun-

"He is the person who registers the homeless at the door, over 200 people a night," Bennett said.

Terry recently told Bennett, "Wouldn't it be funny when I get to heaven if God fired St. Peter and put me in charge of registering people at the pearly

Bennett observes, "It is really exciting to see how God can take an old, angry heart and change it to care for the welfare

For more information contact Bennett at: The Brantley

Center, 201 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130-2452. Telephone: (504) 523-5761; or Mississippi WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Handsboro Church sets 'Marvelous Mondays'

Handsboro Church, Biloxi, will host "Marvelous Mondays in March," a series of evening services featuring Baptist preachers and music leaders.

The theme for the services is "Fires of Revival." Services will

"Fires of Revival." Services will begin at 7 p.m. on March 3, 10, 17, and 24. Admission is free. Childcare will be provided for newborn through age 5.

The program for each service is:

◆ March 3: Preacher will be Rick Scarborough, pastor of First Church, Pearland, Texas. Music leader will be Ken Sharp of First Church Lizana. Church, Lizana.

 March 10: Preacher will be Steve Bain, pastor of East Heights Church, Tupelo. Music leader will be Graham Smith, director of the Church Music ent of the Mississi Convention Board

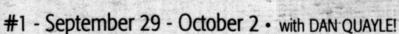
arch 17: Preacher will be Don Boone, pastor of Agricola Church, Agricola. Music leader

will be Greg Bearden of Agricola
Church, Agricola.

March 24: Preacher will be
S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, MBCB director of evangelism. Music leader will be Jess Dickerson of Grace Memorial Church,

For more information, conarbara Cameron at oro Church, 1421 E. Pass Gulfport, MS 39507. ne: (601) 896-3796 or (601)





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TLW welcomed on high school campuses

MOUNT JULIET, Tenn. (BP) Rachel Shepard and Kristin Gardner are not afraid to take a stand for God.

In fact, the two 16-year-olds are bold enough to stake out a table in their high school cafeteria and publicly encourage fellow students to remain sexually

pure until marriage. Shepard and Gardner were the driving forces behind the "True Love Waits

Campus" campaign a Mount Juliet High School Mount Juliet, Tenn.

T h e

" G o e s Campus "campaign is part of the

first year of a

national effort to display True Love Waits cards on high school and college campuses on Valentine's Day.

This year, Shepard and Gardner and other members of Mount Juliet's Young Men and Women for Jesus group — which meets daily at the school 30 minutes before classes start took their turns in the cafeteria asking classmates to sign pledge cards vowing to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

The Christian group, which began its campaign two days before Valentine's Day, collect-ed nearly 200 signed pledges by Feb. 14, the morning the cards were staked into the ground near the high school's flagpole.

"Signing the commitment card is no more than a step of obedience for me. God says to save sex until marriage," said Shepard, who is a junior and member of First Church, Mount Juliet. "It's not just a commit-

ment to not have sex, but to

stay pure sexually."

Gardner, who signed the pledge card three years ago at Tulip Grove Church in Hermitage, Tenn., where the TLW program officially began, said her decision to wait until marriage to have sex can be explained just as simply: "God told me to wait."

The teens say they are not afraid of being taunted by fellow students for taking a stand for and God against premarital sex. "I love telling

people about True Love Waits, Shepard said. 'Anytime you take a strong stand for something,

people respect you." True Love Waits, an international campaign designed to challenge teenagers and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage, was launched by the Baptist Sunday School Board in April 1993.

The first national True Love Waits rally was held in Washington in July 1994.

The second rally - where the "Goes Campus" campaign was launched — was held in Atlanta in February 1996.

A total of 350,000 signed cards were displayed during the "Goes Campus" kickoff last year in Atlanta, representing pledges from all 50 states and 76 countries.

In heading the "True Love Waits Goes Campus" campaign at their school, Shepard and Gardner said they were fortu-

nate because they had the support of Christian principals and teachers.

Some students in Milwaukee however, weren't so lucky.

According to a news release from Liberty Counsel, a Florida-based religious civil liberties education and legal defense organization, students in the Christian Fellowship club at a Milwaukee high school filed a lawsuit against the school and the school district for being denied the right to display pledge cards or make announcements about the campaign over the intercom.

The lawsuit claims censorship and violation of First Amendment rights to free speech and the federal Equal Access Act.

A federal judge subsequently issued an emergency restraining order requiring the school to allow "Goes Campus" publicity.
The 1997 "Goes Campus" campaign "is only the beginning of what we see as being an annual event on school and college campuses," said Jimmy Hester, spokesman for the Sunday School Board's TLW movement.

Hester predicted "many more students will be involved in the 1998 campaign because of what they saw happen at their school in 1997.

"Youth groups under the leadership of ministers of youth will be more proactive next year because of what they observed and experienced this year."

An adequate record-keeping system for the number of young people who have signed True Love Waits cards has not been discovered, acknowledged Hes-ter, who said he does know that about 500,000 pledge cards were mailed to churches and Christian groups Feb. 1996-January 1997.

Additionally, representatives from churches and youth organizations participating in the "Goes Campus" campaign may record the number of pledge cards their group collected on the Home Mission Board's youth evangelism site at:

http://www.youthevangelism.com

Hester said he believes the trend toward sexual abstinence will continue to grow and become the standard for young people in America.

He added, "I believe we are going to witness a reversal in trends related to sexual activity, teenage pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases.

"True Love Waits displays on campuses will serve as a reminder to adults that today's young people can make wise decisions when given the opportunity and choice to adopt and live by God's standards."

STAKING THE PLEDGE Kristin Gardner, left, and Chris Maloney, stake True Love Waits pledge cards in front of their school during the early morning hours of Valentine's Day. Members of the Southern **Baptist Sunday School Board's** True Love Waits advisory team set a goal of displaying pledge cards on all 56,000 school campuses in America by Valentine's Day, 1997. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Bibliocipher By Charles Marx copyright 1997

QMWQ NH XWN YDRV QMWQ QMH IRD RP XWD MWQM GRVHO **JGRD** HWOQM QR **PROECKH** ICDI, (MH IWCB JDQR QMH ICZY RP QMH GWAIN,) C IWN **JDQR** OMHH, WOCIH, QWYH JG ZRJZM, WDB ER CDQR QMCDH MRJIH.

> AJYH PCKH: QVHDQN-PRJO

Clue: Z equals C Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Eight Twenty-Four.

World Changers proceeds

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — As World Changers gears up for another year of missions projects, it also is gearing up for a transition into the North American Mission (NAMB) and anticipating a bright future in missions education and involvement.

ministry of the Commission, Brotherhood World Changers offers youth and adults an opportunity to participate in coeducational missions projects including hands-on involvement in home construction and renovation through its World Changers projects.

It also provides involvement in inner-city ministries and paint projects through the World Tour option.

Participants in both learn about missions firsthand by becoming personally involved in ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of others.

With registration for 1997 World Changers and World Tour projects under way, many have been asking, "What will happen to World Changers in the

Now that the organizational structure of the NAMB has been determined, this question has been addressed.

Since its beginning in 1990, World Changers has touched countless lives and involved more than 30,000 young people and adults in more than 100 projects both stateside and

What began as a senior high work project in Briceville, Tenn., with 137 youth and adult participants has expanded to include projects for junior high youth, college students, single adults, and senior adults.

This year World Changers is offering 43 projects covering 14 states, 32 cities, and four foreign countries.

For registration information about World Changers or World Tour projects, write World Changers, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104, or call (901) 272-2461.



ENCOURAGING ABSTINENCE — Rachel Shepard (sitting, left) and Kristin Gardner (sitting, foreground) oversee the "True Love Waits Goes Campus" signup in their school cafeteria as several students visit the booth to ask questions and sign pledge cards. Shepard and Gardner were the driving forces behind the "True Love Waits Goes Campus" campaign at Mt. Juliet High School, Mt. Juliet, Tenn., which culminated on Valentine's Day. Nearly 200 Mt. Juliet students signed pledge cards. The "Goes Campus" campaign is part of a continuing national effort to display True Love Waits cards on high school and college campuses on Valentine's Day each year. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Start Something New

CHURCH STARTING

Season of Prayer for Home Missions

MARCH 2-9

Prayer call issued for home missionaries

By Lynne Jones SBC Home Mission Board

5,000 Southern Nearly Baptists serve as home mission-aries in all 50 states, the Caribbean, American Samoa, Guam and Canada.

By feeding the hungry, equipping lay people, planting churches, starting AIDS ministries, and so much more, these men and women demonstrate Christ's love on the home mission field.

They are ordinary people. They have names. They have families. They have needs.



HITTING THE ROAD -Fred and Lavada Loper pack their car for a trip to Los Angeles. The Lopers, medical missions missionaries Oklahoma City, Okla., encourage Southern Baptists to include medical ministries in their community outreach. (HMB hoto by Don Rutledge)

Through Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptists set aside one week each year to pray for and financially support home missionaries through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The Week of Prayer for

Home Missions is March 2-9, and eight missionaries are featured for prayer support. Their specific needs are listed below.

Day One Dean and Nadine Blankenship Thorne Bay, Alaska

The Blankenships request prayer for Alaskans to realize their need for Christ; victory over demonic oppression; finances to build a church in Thorne Bay; Coffman Cove mission to constitute as a church; and protection for the Blankenships and finances for them to build a house.

> Day Two Lora Smith Cleveland, Ohio

Smith began the Ministry Training Institute at Ohio's Greater Cleveland Baptist Association.

Pray for the Ministry Training Institute as a resource for locating God's servants; doors to open for sharing the gospel; new ways for the churches to evangelize and teach new believers; and boldness of lay leaders.

Day Three Ignatius and Nena Meimaris Boston, Massachusetts

The Meimarises ask for prayer for God to provide an associational youth ministries coordinator.

They also need prayer for new work starting among Hispanics, Asian Indians, and Southeast Asians; volunteers for church development; the new laity training institute; the goal of 25 college ministries by 2001; and a new 24-hour prayer network among churches.

Day 4
Joe and Ermarine Todd Milwaukee, Wisconsin

For 12 years, Joe Todd has pastored Ephesians Missionary Baptist Church.

Pray for continued growth for the church and its ministries to area residents.

Day 5 Steve and Karen Scudder Salt Lake City, Utah

Touching thousands of lives each year, the Scudders have started two ethnic churches and run a Baptist Concern Center in Salt Lake City.

Pray for their role as parents to Benjamin and Joel; that they



PARTNERS IN PRAYER — Charlean Hughes (left) prays with Lyn Bright, Baptist Student Union director at Portland State University. Hughes works through the Northwest Baptist Convention training and supervising summer and semester missionaries. Her husband, Wes, is associate pastor of Chehalem Valley Baptist Church and is campus ministries director for George Fox University. (HMB photo by Don Rutledge)

will continue to win Mormons to Christ; new ministry starts; three needed literacy missions sites; and volunteers for children/youth work.

> Day 6 Doug Chanco Savannah, Georgia

Chanco starts and multiplies new ethnic churches.

Pray for pastors for new Laotian and Asian Indian missions; Filipino missions to begin in Brunswick and Milledgeville, Ga.; and Chanco as he greets the world on Savannah's shores as a seaman's minister.

Day 7 Fred and Lavada Loper Oklahoma City, Oklahoma The Lopers are Southern Baptists' only national medical

missionaries. Pray for time for the Lopers to learn Spanish; resources to reconstruct their older home; and continued interest in medical needs among Baptists.

Day 8 Wes and Charlean Hughes

Newberg, Oregon
Through Chehalem Valley
Baptist Church, the Hughes minister to students at nearby George Fox University.

Pray for student led ministries; stronger worship and education ministries at Chehalem Valley; and students who will choose God-ordained

Home missionaries are ordinary people. They get tired and discouraged just like anyone else. With prayer support and financial attention, these ordinary men and women can seek out and find extraordinary ways to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

New CP video showcases n

VASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists to individual missionaries supported by Cooperative Program (CP) gifts, was premiered Feb. 18 in Nashville before SBC agency and state Baptist convention leaders.

The 12.5-minute video was Commission's Cooperative Program office in cooperation with the Home and Foreign

Video viewers are intro-duced to missionaries who share Christ's love and message of salvation in such places as:

◆ Brazil, where Karen Grey ministers to AIDS patients.
 ◆ Boston, Mass., where Betsy Draper ministers to college stu-

dents, including more than 25,000 international students.

Nepal, where Robert Watson travels many hours by bus and on foot to minis

patients in remote hospitals.

• Fresno, Calif., where Ron Climer shares a message of hope with juveniles serving

and Joyce Watson have labored for 30 years to help poor farmers improve the soil, their crops and their lives as they eke out a living on small plots of eroded land.

As part of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring, CP promotion will be moved from the Stewardship Commission, which is scheduled to be abolBaptist Convention meeting this June in Dallas.
Stewardship Commission ames Powell will serve as

director of CP relations and Ji

Austin, vice president of CP promotion for the Stewardship Commission, will serve as director of CP promotion.

Copies of "A Mission You Share" videotape in 1/2-inch VHS format can be ordered for \$7 each (plus shipping and handling) from the Cooperative Program Promotion. Cooperative Program Promotion Office, 901 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN 37203. Phone orders can be placed by calling (800) 722-9407.



SERVING THE NEEDY — The Baptist Concern Center in Salt Lake City provided food for 190 families in September 1996. The center began in the 1970s and serves mostly Asian and Russian immigrants in the Salt Lake area. Steve Scudder (left), director of the center, gets a little supervision from a center resident. (HMB Photo by Don Rutledge)

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

February 27, 1997

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

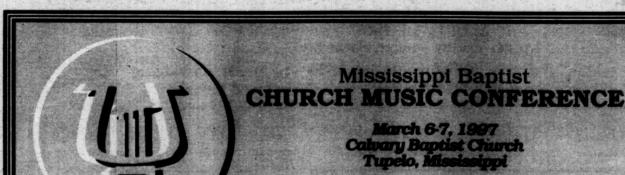
Siaria Revolution Church Staff Retreat April 24-25, 1997 Ramada Inn, Tupelo

Jerri Herring - consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board Jim Butler - pastor at the Trinity Baptist Church in Southaven, Miss. Gerry Peak - minister of education at the Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, Tenn.

> Sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

- Marine Marine	Church Staff Retreat Co Sunday School	18. 2007년 1일
Name:		
Address:		
Church Name	and Position Held:	
Day Time Pho	one Number:	

The conference starts at 1 p.m. on Thursday and ends noon on Friday. There will be no cost for the conference but room prices at the Ramada Inn are \$44 for single occupancy and \$49 for double occupancy. Please make Your reservations directly with the hotel by calling 601-844-4111. To make reservations for the conference, please complete the conference reservation form and mail to the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



or registration form, call the Church Music Department at 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

CORRECTIONS TO 1996 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS

In the January 30, 1997 issue of Housetops, the following errors were made in the reporting of contributions to the Lord's work for calendar year 1996 as processed by the Business Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The name of Fentress Baptist Church, Choctaw Association, was inadvertently omitted. The 1996 gifts for Fentress were correctly reported -\$1,755 to the Cooperative Program, \$200 to Home Missions, \$285 to Foreign Missions, \$165 to State Missions, and \$120 to other designated gifts for a total of \$2,525.

St. Matthew Baptist Church, church number 999-022, gave \$250 to the Cooperative Program in 1996. This gift was included in the miscellaneous designation group (999-999) rather than listed separately.

TEACHING WITH VISION WORKSHOPS

To equip Sunday School and other Bible study leaders and teachers to teach with a vision for fulfilling God's mission in the world. Each person will be trained to facilitate a training session back in his/her church.

Teaching With Vision is for General Sunday School leaders, including pastor/staff, Sunday School director; adult, youth, children, preschool teachers/department leaders.

Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo First Baptist Church, Holly Springs N. Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood

> April 12 Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson

> > First Baptist Church, McComb First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg First Baptist Church, Gulfport

State and National Sunday School leaders



Ann Edwards





Darrell Vandergriff

Teaching With Vision resources for interactive learning will be provided free for churches who schedule a Teaching With Vision Workshop in their church following the regional training.

CUTTING EDGE

Teaching With Vision is not the usual training. New resources and approaches which can multiply training and create a new sense of purpose and mission in Bible study will be provided.

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY NO COST



"A Time for Extravagance.... In Worship, In Ministry"

> Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference

> > April 7 & 8

Camp Garaywa Clinton, Miss.

For more information, call the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department at 1-800-748-1651.



Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

April 11-12, 1997 4 p.m., Friday - noon, Saturday

Cost: \$50 - lodging, 3 meals; \$35 - meals only; \$20 - no meals, no lodging Limited rooms are available on a first-come-first-served basis. Full refunds until March 11 (transferable registrations only thereafter).

Mail to: WMU Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571

Church/Association		Registration	Phone	
Contact Person		Pho		First
Address			位于1000年1月1日1日	
City		State	Zip	•
No. of women	x cost per person		= total enclosed \$	



WOMAN'S WEEKENDER!

June 26-30,1997 Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center Ridgecrest, North Carolina

Cost: \$289 (covers transportation on motorcoach, two nights lodging at Holiday Inn, and your room and board at Ridgecrest)

The weekender, for women only, will provide three special days of Bible study, prayer, ministry ideas, personal spiritual growth conferences, missions encounters, music, and fellowship. Featured guests will include Christian music artist Karla Worley, author and speaker Barbara Joiner, and popular speaker and writer Rhonda Kelley.

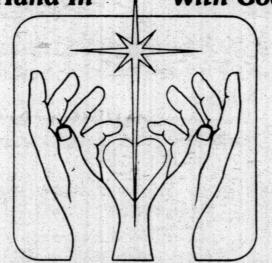
To reserve your place at this first ever Woman's Weekender, your name and a \$100 deposit is due by April 1, 1997.

For more information, contact Jan Cossitt in the WMU office at 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

MISSISSIPPI ACTEENS CONVENTION

Hand In

With God



Ramada Inn Convention Center Tupelo, Miss. April 18-19, 1997

Special Guests

* Russell & Melinda Kyzar, missionaries

* Jan Turrentine, editor of Accent

* "Fishermen," Mississippi State BSU musicians

Register by April 4 using the form below:

MAC Registration Form					
Church/Association	Phone				
Contact Person	Phone				
Address		4. 1. 1. 1.			
City	StateZip				
Please attach a list with r	names of girls and leaders	attending			
No. of Acteens/Leaders					
(Fee includes pro	gram fee, room and one meal.)				
Mail check m	ade payable to WMU to:				
	MAC, WMU				
til en	P. O. Box 530				
Jackso	n, MS 39205-0530				

Southern Singles Rally

Saturday, March 22, 1997 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Pearl River Association Lodge, near Poplarville, Miss.

Featuring:

Kindred Heart, music team Mike Williams, comedian from

Lakeland, Fla.
Door Prizes
Refreshments
Bar-B-Que supper





COST:

\$5 by Wednesday, March 19, or \$7 at the door. Make check payable to Pearl River Baptist Association and mail to Southern Singles Rally, 1376 McNeill-Steep Hollow Road, Carriere, MS 39426. For more information, call 601-798-

2372.

Pray this day for ...

February 28-March 13, 1997

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

Prayer may be defined as "the act of asking for a favor with earnestness" (Webster). Intercession may be defined as pleading in favor of another (Webster). Peter Wagner, in his book Warfare Prayer, says. We use the terms interchangeably. However, technically they are very different. Prayer generally means speaking, to request, to talk, to commune, to fellowship, to offer petition, and supplication. Intercession on the other hand means coming to God on the behalf of another.

For Season of Prayer for Home Missions, sponsored by WMU.

There is no Scripture in the language of over 100 people groups in Chad. Pray that this number will steadily decrease as Christians meet this need.

Pray for Calvary Baptist Church, an international, English-language church in Bangkok, Thailand. There are 12 different nationalities in the congregation. Pray that God will direct and empower the outreach of Calvary and use it as an instrument to help many find Him.

Please continue to pray for God's will to be done concerning the work permits for the missionary personnel in Barbados, Winward Islands, which need to be renewed regularly.

In West Africa so many peo-ple are dying as a result of a meningitis outbreak. Although the authorities are vaccinating and treating this problem, the tide has not yet turned. Pray especially for missionaries in Togo as they face this overwhelming situation that only God can bring under control. under control

Please pray for Miyuki, a new believer in Japan who has termi nal cancer. Her father was told nal cancer. Her father was told she had cancer, went out and got drunk, then returned to beat Miyuki, her sister and mother. Because of Miyuki's testimony, her sister and mother have recently believed in Christ. Pray that God might heal Miyuki if that is His will. Pray that her father will come to know Christ. Thank God for the many peasants in Jixian (pronounced "gee-she-ahn) County in China who have recently become believers. Pray for daily growth in their faith and that they will be firmly accurated in the lord be firmly grounded in the Lord and fruitful in multiplying wit-ness. Ask the Lord for new churches to be planted in Jixian County in 1997.

Missionaries Frank and Dede Trotter ask your continued prayer for their learning of the Zulu language in South Africa.

For Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference, March 6-7; Calvary BC, Tupelo; noon, 6th-11:30 am, 7th, sponsored by Church Music Department

The "New Age" movement is nothing but Satan's "Old Age" ruse. "New Agers" are duped into believing the lies of the devil that they must look into themselves and finally realize they are "gods." What a shodd substitute for real Christianity! Pray for those who are led astray from the truths of God's Word.

For the Singles Rally; Northpark mall; 10 pm-midnight, sponsored by Discipleship & Family Ministry Department. Christian Performing Arts Festival; Woodland Hills BC, Jackson; 6 pm, 28th-3 pm, March 1st, sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry Department.

For GA Mother/Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa; 5 pm, 7th-noon, 8th, sponsored by WMU.

For Young Ringers Festival; FBC, Brandon; 10 am-3 pm, sponsored by Church Music Department.

For Church Weekday
Education Clinic; FBC,
Oxford; 9 am-3 pm, sponsored by Discipleship &
Family Ministry Department.
For State VBS Training; FBC,
Tupelo/FBC, Brandon/FBC,
Hattiesburg; 9 am-12:30 pm,
sponsored by the Sunday
School Department.

STATE YOUTH CHOIR

Festival .

First Baptist Church, Madison March 21-22, 1997



For 7th-12th Graders

Schedule

Friday, March 21

6:30 p.m. Registration 7:00 p.m. Festival Begins

Saturday, March 22

9:00 a.m. Mass Rehearsal 1:00 p.m. Dismiss

Deadline for registration is March 15, 1997. For more information, call the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651.

1997 Smaller* Sunday School Leadership Conference

March 24: New Prospect BC, luka New Prospect BC, Brookhaven March 25: Emmanuel BC, Grenada FBC, Lucedale

Times for all conferences will be 7-9 p.m. No registration required.

> Featuring conferences for day School leaders of:

> > PRESCHOOLERS

CHILDREN

YOUTH

ADULTS

as well as for:

Sunday School GENERAL OFFICERS **PASTORS**

Come be a part of this exciting conference as we look at the wonderful work that can be accomplished through Sunday School.

> Sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 968-3800 (in Jackson) or toll free 800-748-1651 CompuServe e-mail: 70423,151 www2.misnet.com/~ssmbcb

*Generally churches with an enrollment of 150 or less If you do not quite fit into this category, come on. We would love to have you be a part of this conference.



DIXIE CHURCH NOTES 75TH

Editor:

Dixie Church, Hattiesburg, will celebrate its 75th anniversary in April. If you know the names and addresses of any charter members or their families, this information is needed immediately.

Also, if you have access to any organizational dates of classes or programs; names of original teachers and members; or any pictures or news clippings of anything regarding Dixie Church please contact the church at 111 Dixie Church Road, Hattiesburg, MS

39401, (601) 583-9392. We plan to have displays on every phase of the church's life, and the progression and development of each department or

Betty Jones, secretary Lebanon Association Hattiesburg

WRONG ABOUT PK

Editor:

When I received my copy of "The Baptist Record" dated Jan. 16, and read the "Letters to the Editor," I just about dropped my teeth.

I would like to respond to Bennett Blanton's assessment of Promise Keepers (PK).

Although I have not attended a PK event I have read enough about them and talked to enough men who have attended these meetings to know that they are not what

you claim they are.
(Blanton's) letter implies that
you believe the word "Baptist" or more accurately "Southern Baptist" must be listed in the title for an organization to be "doctrinally sound."

The Bible that I read does not "For God so loved Southern Baptists that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes on him and becomes a Southern Baptist should not perish but have everlasting life."

I suppose that is why after a lifetime of being Baptist I became Presbyterian last year at the age of 41

I got tired of hearing how fundamentalist Baptists know all the answers

to everything.
I know that you will disagree with all or most of what I

have had to say. That's okay. We can sit down and talk about it together when we both get to heaven -Presbyterian to Southern Baptist, Christian to Christian! Rick Sandridge

Peublo, Co.

COLLECTING SOUP LABELS

Editor:

My name is Debbie Wohler and I serve as a Home Missionary for Southe Baptists in Tahoe City, Calif. Southern

I am featured in the February issue of "Missions Mosaic"

magazine.

In that article, it mentions how the mission work here is in need of a new 15-passenger van to transport children to our

after-school program.

We are collecting Campbell's soup labels and other related products. We need 1,095,000 labels. At this point we have 600,000 labels!

Last week, three of our fourth-sixth grade boys became Christians.

So far, 1,195 churches (31 churches in Mississippi) and individuals have sent labels.

I am writing to ask you to help us get the information out

to the people of your state.

I know that this will require time and effort on your part and I thank you in advance for your help.

How you keep the people in your state informed makes an incredible difference here on the mission field.

Keep up the good work! May God bless you in your place of ministry.

Debbie Wohler PO Box 7452 Tahoe City CA 95145

"Seek and Ye Shall Find"

The best opportunty I've found in 50 years to earn money and enjoy my work. Perhaps you can also. Let's talk about it.

Call Free: 1-800-708-6237

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (While church membership is not required, Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subiect to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Staying Well

Bantist's Student Union Finds Unique Ministry Opportunities

When you think of Baptist Student Union (BSU), you ordinarily don't think of a hospital. But at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, the BSU is an important component of Baptist's ministry of Christian healing.

Operating under the Pastoral Care Department, and funded fully through MBMC, Baptist's BSU reaches out to medical and nursing students at several Central Mississippi colleges. BSU provides an important resource for students who may be away from home and their regular support systems. Programs such as weekly Bible studies, student leadership training, religious emphasis week and Christmas concerts help link students with the support and outreach opportunities they need to grow in their Christian faith. Through such projects as working with the Baptist Children's Village to hold an annual Christmas party, BSU students provide ministry and comfort to others. But it doesn't stop there. Being located in a hospital environment gives students and BSU workers unique opportunities to minister. And often, they find themselves on the receiving end of the blessing.

Recently, an 8-year-old girl was walking the halls of the hospital, needing someone to confide in. For more than two months, her father had been hospitalized with a terminal illness and her family's emotional, financial and spiritual resources were strained. A BSU worker began talking with the girl and invited her to several BSU and hospital events. A growing circle of students and MBMC employees ministered to her. Each of us was enriched through the experience. BSU played a vital role in helping the girl and her family prepare for their loss in the weeks before her father's death. In turn, we were all blessed by her charm and childlike understanding.

Baptist's BSU provides a hand of Christian ministry to many who are in need, whether they are far away or right at home.

Understanding the Benefits of Hospital-Based Student Ministries

Call 948-MBMC or 1-800-948-MBMC (6262) for more information.



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CLINTON, MS 1-800-423-9826 1-601-924-1982

Jerry W. Stevens, 64, dies

Jerry W. Stevens, 64, died Feb. 16 at the Cedars Health Center in Tupelo after a long illness. He was a member of First Church, Saltillo.

Services were held Feb. 18 with Terry Cutrer and Ken Anderson officiating. Burial was in the Saltillo Cemetery.

He was born in Itawamba County and had lived in Lee County for several years, where he was a banker and an active lay speaker.

Stevens, a disabled minister, served as pastor of Midway Church, Pontotoc; First Church, Nicholson; and Calvary Church, Columbus; and as director of missions for Winston Association.

Throughout his years in the ministry he received awards, certificates, and recognition for accomplishments including leadership certificates in every area of service offered from the Baptist Sunday School Board.

In 1984 he received the

Mississippi Baptist Seminary Award for "loyal and dedicated service."

He received many degrees from different schools including Itawamba Junior College, the University of Richmond, Blue Mountain College, New-Orleans Seminary, and received his doctorate from the Southern Baptist Center for Biblical Studies.

He also attended the San Francisco Seminary.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Bonnie Pierce Stevens of Saltillo; daughters, Sheri Stevens and her two daughters, Lauren and Stephanie Price, and Traci Dobbs.

REVIVAL DATES

Pleasant Hill, Columbus: March 2-5; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bruce Gill, Albany, La., evangelist; Joe Stryron, Kilmichael, music; Steve Lammons, pastor.

Lynn Ray Road, Petal: March 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Alan Celoria, Oklahoma City, Okla., evangelist; Celoria Family Singers, music; Isom Hill, pastor.

Strong Hope, Wesson: Spring area-wide crusade; March 9-14; 7 p.m. each evening at the Strong Hope gymnasium;

crusade sponsored by Zion Hill Church, Pearl Valley Church, Sardis Church, and Strong Hope Church..

Phillipston (Leflore): March 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Bobby Moore, Morgan City, evangelist; Christine Sims, Phillipston Church, music; Lester M. Jeffers, pastor.

Faith, Starkville: April 13-16; Sunday, 10:55 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Ron Dunn, Irving, Texas, evangelist; Rex Rains, Brevard, N.C., music; Blaine Allen, pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

Courtney Selvy began his duties on Jan. 1 as the new Director of Missions for Panola Association. He follows Walter Ballard who retired Dec. 31. Selvy previously served as pas-

tor of Hardy Church Grenada. A native Kansas, Selvy attended New Orleans Seminary where received the Masters of Divinity



Selvy

He degree. earned a doctorate in Sacred Theology from Bethany Baptist Theological Seminary and College, Dothan, Ala. Other churches he pastored in Mississippi were Cedar Grove, Columbia; Clifton, Scott Association; Bentonia, Yazoo Association; and First Church, Lambert, North Delta Association. Selvy, his wife Sally, and children will reside in Batesville.

First Church, Lauderdale, has called Danny Watts as pastor effective March 3. A native of Starkville, Watts received his education at Mississippi State

University and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Arbor Grove Church, Houston.

Bethlehem Church, Simpson Association, has called James C. (Chris) Layton as pastor. He previously served as associate pastor at Poplar Springs Church, Simpson Association. Layton is presently a sophomore at William Carey College.

Mississippi residents Eddie C. and Barbara D. Jones were recently named by the Home Mission Board (HMB) to be home missionaries to Arkansas. A native of Bassfield, Jones serves as a church planter/strategist in Little Rock, Ark. Jones, HMB church planter in Mississippi, previ-ously served as pastor of Christ Temple, Pascagoula. Other pas-torates include Victory Temple, Greenville, and Grace Temple, Gulfport. He was also director



Eddie and Barbara Jones

of the Mississippi River Ministry from 1993 to 1996. Jones is a graduate of New Seminary and al Seminary, Orleans International Plymouth, Fla. Barbara Jones, a native of Chicago, is a graduate of Gulf Coast Community College, Gautier.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Stevens



Trent Barger (right) son of Don and Gail Barger, was recently licensed to the ministry at First Church, Indianola. He is a sophomore at Mississippi College. Presenting Barger with his license is Lewis Harrell, associate pastor at First Church, Indianola.

Victor Ainsworth, evange-list with Victor Ainsworth Ministries, Gulfport, is available for services. He can be contacted at 23132 Highway 53, Gulfport, MS 39503 or call (601) 832-6519.

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UST FOR THE ${f R}$ ECORD



Linwood Church, Union, recently held ground breaking for a building at a cost of \$92,500. Taking part in the ceremony (pictured) are Jerry Bishop, Oliver Jolly, Beverly Lilley, Cassie Peebles, Glenn Nicholson, Aubrey Nicholson, Randy Nicholson, Oliver Bounds, and Harvey Guthrie. Not pictured is Billy Singleton.

West Heights Church, Pontotoc, will celebrate their 50th anniversary on March 9. All former members and friends are urged to attend.

Road Church, Pass Gulfport, will hold it's 6th annual Greater Gulf Coast Bible conference March 2 - 6. There will be 3 services beginning March 3 - 6 at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. Evening services begin at 6:30 p.m. Lunch and dinner will be served each day. The speakers will be Paul Tsika, Doug White, Jack Taylor, and Wade Trimmer. The praise and worship will feature The Balltzgliers, The Balltzglier Family, and Gerald & Cindy Simmons. There will

be a special "Invasion of Praise" Wednesday night and "Living Pictures" from the "Messiah" Thursday night. For more information call (601) 863-1697. Edgar Jackson is pastor.

Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven, will have its 125th year celebration on March 2. Special guest will be Gerald Aultman, former pastor. Sunday School will be at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m., and a meal at noon. Kent Cochran is

The Fellowship of Baptist World Ministries held their annual meeting in Jackson on Dec. 11. Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board (FMB), spoke at the meeting. Officers elected were Jack Hazlewood, Little Rock, Ark., president; Tom Cox, Mountainburg, Ark., vice president; and Arnold Tanner, Lubbock, Texas, secretary-treasurer. This organization works in cooperation with the FMB to coordinate short term mission work around the world.

First Church, Los Alamos, New Mexico, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Aug. 8-10. The Historical Committee is seeking addresses for former members and/or associates. Contact the church at 2200 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos, NM 87544 or call (505) 662-3712 to register your address and interest in further infor-

Glade Church, Laurel, will observe special services at 7 p.m. on Monday during the month of March. Speakers will be Roc Collins, March 3, Tommy Anderson, March 10; Jim Futral, March 17; Gary Bowlin, March 24; and Alan Woodward, March 31. Music will be provided by

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Robert Fennell; Jay Baucom,

Randy Cuchens, Currie Page and the JCJC Ensemble, and Robert Fennell. Mike Thompson

is pastor. For more information,

call the church at (601) 649-4246.

News

RICHMOND, Va. — Shawn and Gloria Buice were among people appointed by the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) Feb. 11 during a service at Calvary Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The Buices will live in north Brazil. MasterLife, Youth Brazil, and the Jesus film have been very well received in northern Brazil and have been instrumen-Brazil and have been instrumental in leading numerous people to a saving faith in Christ. He will teach New Testament and Greek at the North Brazil Baptist. Theological Seminary and the Seminary for Christian Education in Recife. They will work in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1992 he has been pastor of Locke Station Church, Marks.

Born in Trion Ga Shawn

Born in Trion, Ga., Shawn Buice is the son of Leroy and Jo Buice of Summerville, Ga. He considers Summerville his hometown and First Church, hometown and First Church, Summerville, his home church. Locke Station Church, Marks, and Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, Tenn., also were influential in his Christian growth.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of Georgia and the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

Theological Seminary, Memphis.

attended Calhoun He also Community College (now John C. Calhoun State Community College) in Decatur, Ala.

He was a seminary intern at Kirby Woods Church and an an acceptance staff marmher at First

associate staff member at First

Church in Watkinsville, Ga.

Born in Atlanta, Gloria Buice is the daughter of James F. Brown of Marietta, Ga., and the late Barbara B. Brown. While growng up she also lived in Marietta and Smyrna, Ga., and Tampa, Fla. She considers Marietta her hometown and Locke Station ner home church. First Church

Watkinsville, also was influential in her Christian growth.

She received the backelor of arts degree from the University of Memphis (formerly Memphis State University) and also attend-



Shawn and Gloria Buice

ed the University of Georgia.

She was a receptionist/secretary at Mid-America seminary and a self-employed typist in Memphis. She also made a mission trip to Jamaica.

The Buices have four children share a mission trip to Jamaica.

dren: Shawn Leroy Jr., born in 1991; Nicole Grace, 1993; Francina Leigh, 1994; and Laura Jo, 1996. The family will go to the FMB's training center in Rockville, Va., in April for an eight-week orientation before leaving for overseas.

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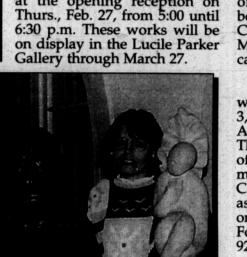
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BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

"Setting a Brilliant Table," watercolors by Patricia Pilie opens at William Carey College. The public is invited to view this exciting new work at the opening reception on Thurs., Feb. 27, from 5:00 until 6:30 p.m. These works will be on display in the Lucile Parker Gallery through March 27.



William Carey College will

offer classes at Pecan Shadows

Farm, Lumberton. Classes will

be directed to the adult learner

students, 25 years of age and older. General Psychology, taught by Tommy King, will be offered Mon.; Introduction

to New Testament, taught by Bob Rogers on Tues.; and Personal Finance, taught by

Jimmy Shivers, on Thurs. All

until 10:00 p.m. One graduate class, Consensus Decision

classes meet from 6:00 p.m. -

Geinene Haynes, Don Smith, and Sheila Robnett show their artwork, which they presented in a recent chapel program at William Carey College on the Coast.

Haynes, who chose to sculpt "Dove" in smooth, creamy alabaster, sees it as the conceptual image of a dove in flight. Smith sculpted a bust of William Carey in bronze. Using pneumatic tools, Robnett began with a piece of limestone weighing in excess of 100 pounds. The finished piece, still weighty at approximately 60-70 pounds, is her individual interpretation of an angel.

Making, taught by Bill Hetrick, dean of the school of education and psychology, will be offered by the school of education and psychology and offered on five Saturdays beginning March 1. Evening Classes begin March 3 and end May 16. For more information call (601) 796-5507.

Mississippi College Band will present a concert on March 3, at 8:15 p.m. in Swor Auditorium of Nelson Hall. The band is under the direction of John Hanbery, professor of music and director of band. Charles McLendon, graduate assistant, will be conducting one piece during the concert. For more information, call (601) 925-3439.

The South Mississippi Art Association is sponsoring a watercolor workshop led by Patricia Pilie Fri., Feb. 28 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.; Sat., March 1 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; and Sun., March 2 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. The cost for the workshop is \$50 and will be held in room 109, Thomas Fine Arts Building, William Carey College. For more information call Eva Faris at 264-3707.

Mississippi College Communication Department will serve as host for a two-day Mississippi College Speech and Debate Tournament scheduled for Feb. 28 and March 1. Approximately 200 students from high schools throughout



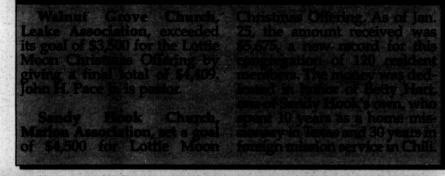
Mississippi College football team recently held the annual football banquet on campus. Among those receiving special recognition was Stan Feener (right), associate pastor of Student Ministries at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. Feener served as chaplain during the season. Tim Yancy, equipment manager, presented the gift on behalf of the Choctaw coaching staff.

the state will be among those participating. For additional information contact Kerry Owens at (601) 925-3454.

The City of Hattiesburg Concert Band will perform March 2 at 3 p.m. in the

Saenger Theatre. The band is under the direction of David Young, professor of music and director of the instrumental program at William Carey College. For more information, call Young at (601) 582-6175.

Lottie Moon Offerings



UST FOR THE RECORD

Fredonia Church, Union County Association, recently held its recognition service for the different mission groups. Pictured (from left) Mission Friends are Jessie Kidd and Blake Jolly, and Rita Kidd and Donna Bridges, leaders;

GAs: leader Rhonda Carter, Leslie Kidd, Anna Moody, Brittany Carter, Kelly Williamson, and leader Kathy Moody;

RAs: first row, Derrick Wagner, Jared Carter, Rick Prewitt, Dustin Bridges, Zach Moody, Justin Bridges; second row, Mason Wages, Alex Rowland, Hunter Williamson and Jeremy Prewitt; leaders are



Fredonia, Mission Friends

David Carter and Rickey Kidd; Acteens: leader Jill Weeden, Brandi Jolly, Alison Barnes, Leah Kirk, Keri Grisham, and Kristen Hall; leaders not pictured are Edna Goudy and Buffy Goudy.



Fredonia, RAs



Fredonia, Acteens



Fredonia, GAs

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Tell the Good News!

I Thess. 2:1-13

By Mary Ellen Powell

Bold Witness Thessalonians 2:1-2). Paul and his companions suffered greatly in Philippi, but they persevered in sharing the Gospel in Thessalonica. They suffered severe humiliation from their opponents, but were vindicated by the lives of the Thessalonion believers. Through their belief and subsequent spiritual growth, Paul could truly saythat his work was not a failure. Perseverance in following the call of Christ, though it may bring hardship, brings the evidence of fruit in our lives and the lives of others.

Earnest Witness (2:3-4). Paul-

could stand firmly behind what he had done in Thessalonica because he knew that his motives were pure

and his actions were just. He was approved by God and worked, not for the approval of man, but for God's approval. As we go about God's work we we go about God's work, we should always remember that the world will not understand what we do or approve of it. The message of God is in opposition to the world and, by its very nature, the world cannot under-stand that message. Our job is to remain above reproach in our hearts and actions and to remain totally committed to God, understanding as we go that we



Powell

will often receive opposition and disapproval. Sincere Witness (2:5-

6). Paul reminds the Thessalonians that his life, and that of his companions, was lived in devotion to the message, not to their own gain. The genuineness of their message could be seen in the

total transparency of their motives. In a fake and shallow world, we must live in total honesty with God, others, and ourselves. God's call requires complete honesty about our own spiritual attitudes and actions.

Loving Witness (2:7-8). The focus of Paul's letter moves now from how he was viewed by his opponents to how he and his companions related to Thessalonians. Paul reminded the Thessalonians of the gentle, unselfish, and unconditional manner in which they were loved. Love such as

this, often known as agape love, is the type that is shown to us by God and is the type that truly ministers to a person's heart. As we seek to follow God, we are called upon to give of ourselves totally to those to whom we minister

and, especially, to God.

Exemplary Witness (2:9-12).
Paul reminds the Thessalonians of how-they were loved into their relationship with God. He and the others showed them a love that did not bring with it a burden, but affirmed them as wise fathers would. In verses 11-12, examples are given of a parental love that encourages, comforts, and cheers a child on to greater things. Such a love is needed in our ministries and especially in our homes. By loving the Thessalonions in this way, Paul was confident that the people to whom he ministered would look on him as one devoted to their spiritual growth, not to his own personal gain. A ministry lived-out in an unselfish and righteous manner is one that is truly effective in the lives of others. When we are willing to love others in this way, we can

truly be used by God.

Effective Witness (2:13).

After all Paul had gone through in this ministry, he was thankful for the response of the Thessalonians. We are truly encouraged when, after we have devoted ourselves to ministering to others, we see the fruit in their lives. Making a spiritual investment in someone's life is the greatest gift that we can give. Where would any of us be if someone had not made such an investment in our own lives? We must always remember that the greatest investment in our lives has been made by God-what type of return is He receiving on

that investment?
Powell is a member of First Church, Clinton.

LIFE AND WORK

Serve

Matthew 25:31-46

By Thad Moore

We live in a world that runs away from any type of judge-ment. Much is said about rights and privileges but little about individual responsibility. We need to be reminded that God

will judge everyone.

A Time of Separation (25:31-33). When Jesus comes to judge the world, he will come in all his glory. The first time Christ came to the earth, he came as a helpless child. When he comes the second time, he will come in all his majesty and glory. He is the majesty and glory. He is the all powerful Son of God. There will be no need for an appeals court, his judgements are perfect.

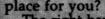
Jesus tells us that the judge-

ment is a time of separation. He will sep-

arate the sheep (saved people), from the goats (lost people). Palestinian farmers regularly separated their flocks. They were aware of the separa-tion and discrimination process. This judgement is not a trial but action taken on deci-

sions already made.

Meet Human Needs (3436). Jesus invites those who have been caring for others to take their inheritance. He has been preparing for them since the creation of the world. Someone has said," Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people and Hell is a prepared place for unprepared peo-ple." Is Jesus preparing a



place for you?

The right hand of God is a place of honor. Those who feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and provide companionship for those in prison are invited to Christ's place of honor. They have cared of honor. They have cared

for the needy and Christ will reward them. The sheep are blessed because of their good behavior. The emphasis of Christ is on help-

ing those in need.

Salvation is more than walking down an aisle or faithful church attendance. It is more than giving or constructing buildings. The proof of our salvation is that we help others. We better be sure we are not just going through religious rituals. We must have a relationship with Christ that produces the works of the Christian life.

Serve Christ (37-40). Jesus explains what it means to be

explains what it means to be righteous. The righteous have

helped those in need. However, they are not aware they have helped Jesus. He reminds them, if they have helped even the least of his brothers, they have helped him.

Mother Teresa of India was

asked why she was so willing to minister to needy people. She replied, "I do not see needy people, I see Jesus when I minister." She has captured the heart of the lesson. If you want to minister to Jesus you have to minister to you have you have

lesson. If you want to minister to Jesus you have to minister to the sick, lonely, and oppressed people you encounter.

How do we express our love for God? Is it by leaving air conditioned homes and driving in air conditioned cars and sitting is air conditioned churches singing Jesus paid it all? No! Genuine Christians will want to worship. However, worship is to be expressed by compassion for others.

A Destiny Declared (41-46). Those who are uncaring are cast

Those who are uncaring are cast into hell. Their lack of concern for others is ample evidence

they did not have a relationship with the God of all compassion and comfort. Just as heaven is prepared for believers, hell is prepared for those who show no fruit. Hell is a terrible place of eternal punishment. The unrighteous are sent there for their sins of omission as well as sins of commission.

There is no more pressing priority in life than to respond to Jesus and his messages by becoming disciples through faith in Christ. Then we are to demonstrate Christ's Lordship in our lives through acts of ser vice to all the needy and especially to those of the household of faith (Gal. 6:10).

There are many Christians suffering for their faith. As you read this there are approximately two hundred million Christians suffering from malnutrition. It is time for us to see esus in them and provide for

their need.

Moore is pastor, First Church,
Holly Springs.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Celebrate! Matthew 26

By Mark Long

The Passover was a time Israel expected the Messiah's appearance. Jesus revealed to his disciples his messianic role. He would give his life as a sacrifice so death would pass over his people. In this text, Jesus revealed the reality of his death and the intimate relationship required between people and himself for death to pass over. Just as death passed over the Israelites in Egypt because of the blood of the pascal lamb, we celebrate because death passes over the believer because of the blood of Christ.

Preparation (Matt. 26:17-19).

Originally, Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were two distinct feasts (Ex. 12:1-8, 18-20; Num.

28:16-25). The two feasts eventu- so he directs still today. The ally became referred to as one feast lasting eight days. Though Matthew refers to the time as the first day of Unleavened Bread, this refers to the day of preparation for the Passover meal, as

verse 17 clearly states.

The time of the Passover meal was at hand, and so was Jesus'. So Jesus directed his disciples to prepare. Jesus' state-ment foreshadowed his death, and the new meaning he would apply to the Passover meal.



Long

The Hebrew day began after sunset. The disciples had the time to prepare for the night. Elsewhere Jesus said to walk while it is light, and put your trust in the light while you have it (John 12:35-36). We must prepare for the Savior while we have time. As he directed the disciples,

main preparation of the day was to sacrifice and prepare the lamb for consumption. Though the lamb has already been sacrificed, we must still accept the lamb into our lives. The time is at hand. Prepare.

Prediction (26:20-25). While Jesus and the disciples ate the Passover meal, Jesus predicted his betrayal by one of his disciples. The disciples began asking, "It is not I, is it, Lord?" as though they believed Jesus may well be

able to see some weakness of which they were not aware. The amazing thing is that the guilty one, Judas, acted the same as the other disciples. As we approach the Lord's Supper, we must allow the Lord to search us, confess our shortcomings, and repent of sin. Anything else will lead to certain betrayal of our Lord in our lives.

(26:26-28). Participation Jesus used two symbols in the Lord's Supper to symbolize himself. First, Jesus broke the bread. The breaking does not symbolize what happened to Jesus's body, but was simply how the bread was shared among all the disciples. Bread was a symbol of the basic food needed for life. Jesus is life. Only by accepting him into our lives can we share his life. The Jews had a belief that you are what you eat. Thus, the laws of clean and unclean for their food. Jesus told his disciples to eat his body.

Take it in. Become like him.
Second, Jesus used the symbol of red wine. Red wine symbolized blood and life. The life of an animal was contained in its blood (Gen. 9:4). Jesus told his disciples to drink in his blood/life. Take it in. Share his life. Just as the Israelites were to eat the lamb in Egypt, Jesus' people are to take in his death and life, and thus pass form death to life.

Promise (26:29). Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper not only pointed toward his death, it also pointed toward the promised eternal Kingdom of God. Jesus said he would drink the fruit of the vine fresh in his Father's kingdom. Just as Jesus would experience life after his death, so his people live with the hope of life after death. Long is pastor, First Church,

Perkinston.



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"Perfect love casts out fear." (I John 4:18) When we ask Christ into our lives, his love chases away fear.

2. His promise of eternal life gives us peace.

The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life." (Romans 6:23) God provides eternal life through the death and resurrection of his Son.

3. His promise to walk with us through life gives us peace.

Jesus said, "In me you may have peace. In this world you have tribulation, but take courage; I-have overcome the world." (John 16:33) Jesus extends his promise of peace to us, but we must respond by accepting him as the missing piece in our lives.

You can make that commitment today by, (1) admitting you need God, (2) confessing your sins to him, and (3) by faith, receiving Christ as Lord.

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

Faith discovered, teenager yearns for home

By Jennifer Harner Baptist Children's Homes of N.C.

KINSTON, N.C. (BP) — The 13-year-old, who came to the Baptist children's home campus timid and hopeless, has found stability and security.

When younger, Lacey often was left to care for herself and her siblings. She used to dream of ways to safely walk to and from school.

Now, she dreams about college and a career working with animals. (Only Lacey's first name will be used in this article.)

Last January, Lacey and her older sister, Lonnie, arrived at the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina campus at Kinston after social services

Hi! My name is Mindy

Dear Pen Pal Club,

found them living in a van at the beach with their father and

three other siblings
The younger children now live in a foster home.

Lacey's father took them to the beach after his wife, Lacey's mom, left them to live with her boyfriend. Their relationship, said Lacey, was always volatife.

"Mom left off and on throughout my life," she said. "My parents never got along. They were together for 14 years, arguing, fussing. Nobody liked each other in our home," she said.

Soon, the constant fighting took its toll. Lacey, a self-pro-claimed good student, began missing school.

Her grades dropped and she tried to commit suicide.

boy or girl to write me.

Please write to:

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Part of the problem, said Lacey, was her parents couldn't afford to care for them on their own and they weren't willing to help each other.

When her mom left, Lacey's dad couldn't afford the rent and moved the whole family to the beach.

Soon, because of a mix-up with the landlords there, they were kicked out of their rented

That night, they drove to a shelter in Wilmington, N.C., where they were turned away because there was no adult female to stay with the girls.
In the end, they lived in their

family van.

Within a few days, all five children were taken from their father and placed in a foster

"They took us to a lady's house and the first thing she said was, 'You are filthy," said

Lacey, feeling rejected again.
In the beginning, her dad tried to find a house so he could get his children back.

At the same time, Lacey's mom was working to get the children home with her.

Now, Lacey said, no one knows where her dad is, but her mom is making great progress.
"She just needs a home for

us and it has to be approved,"

said Lacey, whose number one dream is returning home.

At the Kinston campus, or Kennedy Home, Lacey shares a room with her sister.

Although they spent many years arguing and fighting, their relationship has strengthened.

"We have a sisterly type relationship and get along most of the time. We stick up for each other and when we do argue, we work it out."

Since her placement over a year ago, Lacey said she's overcome many problems by giving her life to Christ.

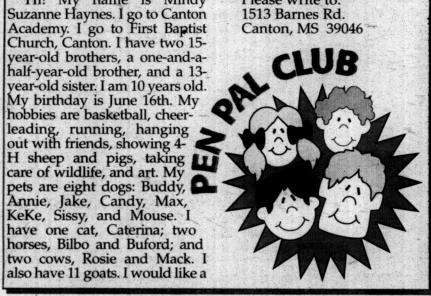
She was baptized June 9,

"Growing up, I went to church with my mom and dad some, but I would be a Christian for that day and the rest of the week, whew, we just didn't act that way.

"Now, I try to revolve my life around Christ every day. I'm quiet at school so I won't get in

"I used to have a foul mouth, but now I don't. I asked for forgiveness," she said.

For information on the programs of the Baptist Children's Village (BCV) in Mississippi, con-tact Chrystelle Thames, BCV public relations director, at P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060. Telephone: (601) 922-2242.



Jesus sent his disciples to find this the dots and find it!



Source: Fun Stuff for Kids by Michael Streff. (Zondervan, 1992), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.



Minister of Counseling First Church, Jackson

I've never been in counseling, but I'm beginning to think I need to be. How do I know when I should get counseling?

When you exhaust your own efforts, feel overwhelmed, and lose objectivity, those are pretty strong signs that you need help. Counseling does not mean you can't handle your own problems; it is simply a realization that you need to look at your situation from a different perspective that can be provided by a trained professional. Christian counseling is:

— finding God's way in the darkness of this world.

encouragement in the face of disillusionment. feedback to your ideas,

thoughts, and feelings. a listening ear in a busy

seeking answers to life's difficult questions.

 The Apostle Paul said, "For when I am weak, I am strong."
(2 Cor. 12:10 NIV.) Recognize
that you don't have all the answers, and that it's OK to

turn to someone who will help you see the light.

Why are Baptists so uptight about having a good time?

When Christians define a "good time," they must ask themselves, "What would Jesus do in this situation?" When people see us, they see Jesus. Christianity is not opposed to having a "good time," but you must remember that Jesus set us free from the bondage of conforming to the world. You are free to define a "good time" according to your Christianity. Galatians 5:1 (NIV) states, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened by the yoke of slavery." When you can honestly say that you are not a slave to the world and that your life honors Christ with no guilt on your part or harm to others, you have indeed achieved the freedom Paul is describing. Living that kind of life is a "good time," indeed!

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, lackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.